

# Hamilton plant converts 4000 tonnes of waste a year into desperately needed construction boards

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Mark Troughar, Freightways CEO at the SaveBOARD Te Rapa plant. Photo / Supplied

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Freightways has invested \$2.7 million in SaveBoard, an innovative solution that upcycles packaging waste into construction board.

The cash has enabled SaveBoard to open a plant in Te Rapa, Hamilton, which became fully operational at the end of last year and is now converting up to 4000 tonnes of waste a year into approximately 200,000 desperately needed construction boards.

The investment is not only commercial but the right thing to do according to Freightways CEO Mark Troghear. It converts materials like Tetra Pak and fast-food cartons, which were previously not recyclable, into building board that performs similarly to plywood, oriented strand board and particleboard and can be used indoors and out.

With transport and construction combined accounting for nearly 30 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions in New Zealand, Freightways recognised the business as an opportunity to meet needs at both ends.

The listed company sees SaveBoard as a means to achieving a number of goals. It is able to offer its clients a way to deal with waste within their own businesses, maximise efficiency on its existing waste collection services and accelerate its goal of a 50 per cent reduction in carbon emissions by 2035.

Spearheaded by Paul Charteris, SaveBoard uses patented Smart Technik technology to convert waste that previously could not be recycled in New Zealand including fibre and poly-coated packaging like coffee cups, carton board and soft plastic waste into world-class products.

"Locally we have phenomenal interest in our first run, and we need less than 1 per cent of the market here to reach our initial capacity," says Charteris.

Freightways also encouraged SaveBoard to add a wash/dry line to its production facility, a crucial element missing from many recycling facilities resulting in recyclable – but contaminated – materials heading to landfill. The wash/dry line is now operational after receiving funding from Callaghan Innovation.

"Investing in SaveBoard made sense for Freightways as the perfect complement to our current collection and destruction service offering, creating a circular economy for those collections from right now – not by 2025, or by 2050," says Troghear.

Recycling isn't new to the Freightways portfolio - The Information Management Group (TIMG) manages document destruction and large scale paper recycling, but this investment is a key step towards its goal of having zero landfill products.

"Our investment strategy hinges on increasing efficiencies and creating a circular economy; we're actively seeking out solutions that work with complementary waste streams, finding a way to reuse product in a meaningful way – at a scale that creates real impact, " says Troghear.

More information about SaveBoard is available at [www.saveboard.nz](http://www.saveboard.nz)